

BLACK

&

MISSING

A toolkit for identifying and challenging bias in police responses to Black and Black mixed heritage missing people

SERVICE

DIRECTORY

NATIONAL AND LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICES

People go missing because of a broad range of reasons, and many will need support to address the issues that caused them to go missing, or to deal with any harm they experienced while away.

Similarly, families of missing people will often be extremely distressed by what is happening, especially while their loved one is missing, or if there are repeated missing episodes.

While the police play a vital role in the investigation and finding the missing person, and should act with kindness and empathy in their interactions with the missing person and their family, they are often not best placed to provide specialist support.

Police are often the main or only point of contact for people in these times of crisis, so it is crucial that they are prepared to signpost and refer people to appropriate services, depending on their circumstances, to ensure people get the help they need.

When working with communities in which there is poorer trust in the police due to historic and systemic failures, it is even more important that the police connect people with services that can help them, and if necessary, can help to advocate for them.

Where possible, it may be helpful to ensure people have access to

culturally relevant services, that are specifically focussed on meeting the needs of Black or particular ethnic groups. These services may be better placed to understand the context surrounding the missing person and their family, or may be better able to meet their needs generally.

Below we have included details of some of the national organisations that exist to support people on some of the issues commonly linked to going missing. Where possible we have included organisations that are specifically focussed on supporting Black communities.

Officers who are interacting with missing people and their families should be aware of these national organisations, and confident in signposting or referring people to them. However, this list is not enough in itself. Local, grassroots and community organisations can play a vital role in supporting people in your area, and may be better placed to understand local, cultural context. It is vital that you review the available services in your area, with a particular focus on those that are Black-led or focussed on meeting the needs of specific ethnic communities.

There is a template table below which can be used to record details of those organisations. This should then be shared with frontline officers. It may be helpful to speak to your local children and

adult's services to help fill out this list. Your local services directory should be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it remains up to date.

Note: We would recommend contacting any of the organisations that you include in your local directory to inform them that they are being included in the directory, and to build relationships that can help to inform your work to improve responses for Black missing people.

Organisation	Service type / issue	Area / communities they serve	Link

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Missing People	Emotional and practical support for anyone who is thinking about running away; who has been reported missing; and for families of a missing person	All	www.missingpeople.org.uk
ChildLine	Helpline for children	All	http://www.childline.org.uk/about/about-childline
Mind	Mental health: helplines for advice and support	All	http://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/
Mental health support: various	A directory for mental health support services by postcode search. Services include crisis cafes, sanctuaries and safe havens	All	https://hubofhope.co.uk/
Samaritans	Mental health and suicide support	All	http://www.samaritans.org/
Become	Care Advice Service	Children in care and care leavers	http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/get-support/care-advice-service/
Help at Hand	Children's Commissioner Helpline – support, advice and information	Children in care / living away from home / children who have a social worker or are a care leaver under 25	http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand
Black Minds Matter	Connecting Black individuals and families with free 121 talking therapy delivered by qualified and accredited Black therapists	People who are Black African, Black Caribbean or Mixed Heritage with one parent being Black African or Black Caribbean (U-18s would need to have an adult family member willing to join therapy with them)	http://www.blackmindsmatteruk.com/

Organisation	Service type / issue	Area / communities they serve	Link
BLAM UK – School Exclusion Appeal Service	Provide advice and representation at school exclusion panels and meetings	Black British students	http://www.blamuk.org/school-exclusion-appeal-services
Sistah Space	Domestic and sexual abuse support	African and Caribbean Heritage women	http://www.sistahspace.org/how-we-can-help
HERSANA	Support services for victims/survivors of gender-based violence	Black women, girls transwomen, and nonbinary people. Must be aged 13 or over. Only available in England and Wales.	http://www.hersana.org/for-professionals/services-we-offer
Karma Nirvana	Support for victims of honour based abuse	All	https://hubofhope.co.uk/
Southall Black Sisters	Domestic abuse support, forced marriage support	Black and minoritised women of all ages	http://www.samaritans.org/
SafeCall - Missing People	Criminal exploitation services	Children, young people and families affected by county lines/child criminal exploitation	http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/get-help/help-services/exploitation-and-county-lines
Ivison Trust	Support for parents of children who have been victims of exploitation	Parents or carers of children who have experienced sexual and criminal exploitation	http://www.ivisontrust.org.uk/for-parents/
Dementia UK - Black, African and Caribbean Communities Admiral Nurse clinics	Dementia support and advice	People from Black, African and Caribbean communities who are living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia	https://www.dementiauk.org/information-and-support/how-we-can-support-you/admiral-nurse-clinics/black-african-and-caribbean-communities-admiral-nurse-clinics/

► **MISSING PEOPLE**

is the only UK charity providing a lifeline to those affected by a disappearance or thinking of going missing. For support talk to us on 116 000.

<https://www.missingpeople.org.uk>

► **LISTEN UP**

is a national research and training organisation established to amplify the experiences of Black and racialised children in child protection research, policy and practice. Listen Up is the leading organisation increasing awareness about adultification bias and its implications for child protection.

<https://listenupresearch.org/>

**missing
people**

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)
and in Scotland (SC047419)

